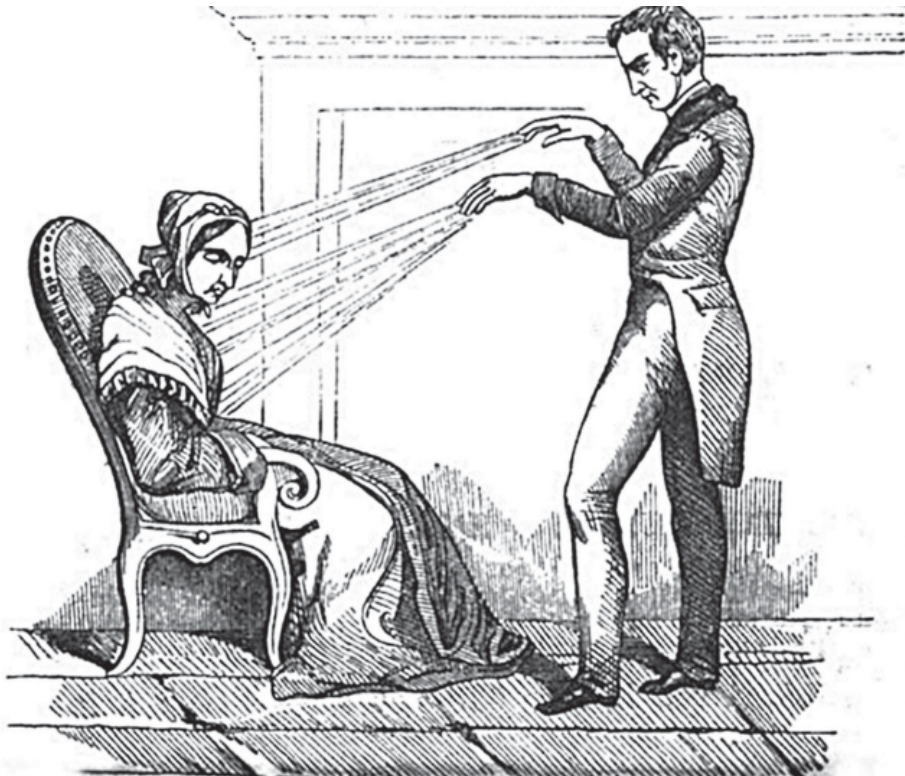


THE INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRY

## ANNUAL REPORT TO THE FRIENDS

JULY 1, 2006 - JUNE 30, 2007



THE INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRY

*ANNUAL REPORT TO THE FRIENDS*

JULY 1, 2006 - JUNE 30, 2007

*Oskar Diethelm Library  
Richardson History of Psychiatry Research Seminar  
Cornell Studies in the History of Psychiatry  
Eric T. Carlson Memorial Grand Rounds*

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Designed by Siovahn Walker for the Institute for the History of Psychiatry,  
Weill Cornell Medical College, Department of Psychiatry. October 2007.  
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**TRANSFUSION OF NERVIC-VITAL POWER.**



# INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRY



## *AN INTRODUCTION*

The Institute for the History of Psychiatry is an inter-disciplinary research unit in the Department of Psychiatry of the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Medical College of Cornell University and The New York Presbyterian Hospital. Its objective is to carry out, encourage, and advise scholarship in a broad range of historical topics that are relevant to the present day theory and practice of psychiatry. Its basic activities include the Richardson History of Psychiatry Research Seminar and the administering of the Oskar Diethelm Library.

The foundation of the Institute was laid in 1936, when Dr. Oskar Diethelm, Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Director of the recently opened Payne Whitney Psychiatric Clinic, began assembling books and journals important to the history of psychiatry, convinced as he was of their value to clinicians. Stimulated by this growing resource, Dr. Eric T. Carlson formally launched the History of Psychiatry Section (as the Institute was originally known) in 1958, when he received a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to pursue research into the history of American psychiatry. At the same time, Dr. Diethelm appointed him to a newly created position as Director of the Section.

Under the leadership of Dr. Carlson, the activities and collections of the History Section steadily expanded to serve a wide range of interests, from the educating of medical students and residents to the exchange of ideas among historically oriented scholars from many disciplines. In the early 1960s, Dr. Carlson instituted a biweekly research seminar, which in 1993 was renamed the Richardson Research Seminar in honor of the Richardsons' generous support.

When Dr. Diethelm retired in 1962, the Section's rare books library was named in his honor. The Oskar Diethelm Library now contains over 50,000 printed items, constituting the most comprehensive collection of its kind in the United States. Initially, the emphasis was on collecting British and American works from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries as well as Renaissance works in Latin. As the Library

grew, however, it developed major collections dating from the 15th century in French, German and Italian, as well as acquired selected works in Arabic, Dutch, Hungarian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Swedish.

The Library now counts among its holdings nearly every edition of the monographs of such important figures as Emil Kraepelin, Sigmund Freud, Isaac Ray and Benjamin Rush. The Library holds significant collections in such areas as the history of hypnotism, psychoanalysis, the American mental hygiene movement, the temperance movement, as well as religious and medical debates on witchcraft, suicide, and sexual behaviors. There are also many early and rare first-person accounts of psychiatric illness, alcoholism, and drug abuse. The Library has the complete runs of several crucial and uncommon journals and an impressive collection of hospital and asylum reports of the 19th and early 20th centuries, amounting to more than 3,500 items.

Dr. Diethelm recognized the value of knowledge contained in early dissertations written for the medical degree in pre-Enlightenment Europe. He traveled throughout Europe to identify them in foreign repositories and collect what he could for the Library, eventually collating his work into his *Medical Dissertations of Psychiatric Interest before 1750* (Basel: Karger, 1971). The Library's collection of these theses now stands at nearly five hundred.

In 1976, the manuscript division of the Library was officially established, indicating its growing importance as a repository for the unpublished papers of many organizations and individuals vital to the history of psychiatry. The Library now houses over sixty manuscript collections. It is the official depository of such institutions as the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry, the American Psychoanalytic Association, and The Cheiron Society. Its holdings of the papers of D.W. Winnicott and David Levy make it an important resource for the study of child psychiatry and psychoanalysis. Through the generosity of Dr. Bernard L. Diamond, primary sources have been amassed relating to cases vital to the history of forensic psychiatry, such as the M'Naughton trial and the Guiteau trial. There are notable holdings related to the American mental hygiene movement, biological psychiatry, and such renowned figures as Clifford Beers, Sigmund

Freud, Morton Prince, William James, G. Stanley Hall, Johann Spurzheim, Andrew and George Combe, Herbert Spencer, August Forel, Francis Galton, S. Weir Mitchell, and Harry Stack Sullivan.

From its earliest days, numerous scholars have worked in the Oskar Diethelm Library, publishing their discoveries as articles or books. From the Renaissance psychiatry that Dr. Diethelm pursued and the early American psychiatry that Dr. Carlson explored, the topics of inquiry have multiplied. The list has grown to include biographies of psychiatrists, psychologists, and pioneers in mental hygiene; accounts of the development of child psychiatry and the changing attitude toward children; books on psychoanalysis and its reception in various parts of the world; histories of psychiatry during specific periods, of particular mental hospitals that epitomized the development of the field, as well as sub-specialties such as the treatment of alcoholism or schizophrenia; studies in legal psychiatry; topics in British, German, and French psychiatry; histories and analyses of ideas and concepts in psychiatry, psychology, and psychoanalysis; works on the relationship between psychiatry, literature and religion; as well as investigations of multiple personality disorders and hypnosis. There are also two published volumes of symposia sponsored by the Institute.

Dr. Carlson organized the Friends of the Oskar Diethelm Library in 1964, thus widening the Library's circle of interested and active supporters. Those who could not participate directly, but who recognized the value of the Library's programs, began to give generously to benefit the collections and support the scholars who use them. The Friends' regular membership has grown steadily, while larger grants from far-seeing individuals and foundations have permitted the awarding of fellowships, the acquisition of special collections, and the consolidation of historical materials from the New York Hospital's Westchester Division into the Library.

After the death of Ted Carlson in 1992, Dr. George Makari assumed the Directorship of the Institute. During his tenure, Dr. Makari has undertaken a number of initiatives, including the launching of the Cornell Studies in the History of Psychiatry book series, the inauguration of the Carlson Grand Rounds in the History of Psychiatry, the creation of specialized research working groups, and the modernization and professional cataloguing of



the ODL's holdings. In 1994, the Institute for the History of Psychiatry responded to the prospective razing of the Payne Whitney Clinic by moving the Oskar Diethelm Library to temporary quarters at the New York Academy of Medicine. The Library returned to the campus of Weill Medical College and the New York Presbyterian Hospital in the spring of 1999 where it now occupies state-of-the-art facilities. In 2003, Nathan M. Kravis was appointed Associate Director of the Institute.

*Robert Goldstein, M.D.*



**MESMERIZING WATER.**

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Historians have been known to relish, even obsess over, anniversaries, studying how memorials and other public remembrances create historical memory in a community. So excuse me, but I cannot hold back from reminding all of our friends and members that 2008—though it is still months away—marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Institute for the History of Psychiatry at Cornell.

The number itself is impressive. Remember, the history of medicine is a young discipline. The first research institution dedicated to medical history was founded in 1905 in Leipzig and it was not until 1929 that the United States followed suit with its own center for scholarly study of medical history at Johns Hopkins University. Thus, given the newness of the field, the notion of founding a center for the study of a sub-discipline of medicine surely must have seemed like a stretch in 1958. However, the last five decades have proven that Oskar Diethelm and Eric Carlson were prescient. The study of psychiatry's past has become a booming field with great consequence for an array of disciplines. And throughout the last five decades the Institute for the History of Psychiatry has been at the center of this growing field. Whether one looks at the founding histories of mental institutions or revisionist critiques of psychoanalysis or even the anti-psychiatry movement, one will find that much of the critical work on psychiatry's past has been done here at the Institute. This little, solitary center has offered and continues to offer its great resources for the free use of scholars, policy makers, physicians and, indeed, any who seek to learn the lessons of the past.

In celebration of this milestone, we will be creating a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund to help secure our future. As you know, medical economics continue to be difficult, and may get worse.

Moreover, public and private funding for libraries continues to dry up. So, we will be looking to those of you who see the value of this on-going work (and the need to develop self-sustaining resources to preserve the Oskar Diethelm Library and Institute for the History of Psychiatry for future generations) to continue to support our efforts by giving generously.

This coming year is also a special one for me. After many years of research, my intellectual and social history – *Revolution in Mind: The Creation of Psychoanalysis* (HarperCollins, forthcoming, 2008) – will be published. The faults of the book are surely my own, but some of its strengths must be attributed to my years here at the Institute. I have benefited enormously from the many treasures housed in the Oskar Diethelm Library. After all, few have the luxury to run down the hall to grab that obscure 19<sup>th</sup> work on hypnotism or child development. Additionally, I have spent the last decade in conversation with a host of brilliant interlocutors, all of whom come to the Richardson seminars and the working groups to be prodded, challenged, and forced to think harder. From the start, the Institute opened its doors to anyone whose work was scholarly, whether his or her conclusions supported or undermined psychiatric authority. The message was clear: there is no litmus tests except careful scholarship. Indeed, it has been 21 years since I found my way up to the roof of the old Payne Whitney Clinic. I only hope that my book honors the ideals of this community.

In this Annual Report, you will find testament to a flurry of activity over the last year. As Diane Richardson notes, we are especially proud that the Diethelm Library catalogue is now on-line and available to scholars around the world. Also, take a moment and walk through our first on-line exhibit, on psychiatric hydrotherapy. We hope to up-load all our future exhibits, so you can enjoy them from far away.

Nathan Kravis has again curated a superb array of lectures for the Richardson Research seminars. Of the 17 speakers, I should note that renowned art historian, Donald Kuspit delivered the Esman lecturer, and an old friend, Hannah Decker, gave the Carlson lecture. The Working Groups continue to grow in size and purpose; these extended conversations are exactly what makes IHOP so special.

It is my pleasure also to welcome a new member to the faculty of the Institute. Mallay Occhiogrosso, M.D. attended Cornell medical school, and completed her residency in psychiatry at Payne Whitney Manhattan. This July, she joined the full-time faculty of the department of psychiatry and became a formal member of the Institute. I have known Mallay since she was a Cornell medical student, who sought me out to begin work on a project that came to fruition this past year. Her fascinating study of the historical conceptions of overeating in psychiatry is slated for publication in the near future.

Finally, I must thank Siovahn Walker, who stepped into the job of administrative assistant and quickly displayed her many talents. This Annual Report showcases a few of her skills; others will be on exhibit when she defends her dissertation in medieval history at Stanford University this coming winter.

George Makari, M.D.

# OSKAR DIETHELM LIBRARY

## LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

### *Library Catalog*

This year has seen some major advances in the library. Our online catalog – 8 years in the making – has had its debut on the internet. The catalog is accessible from the website of the Institute for the History of Psychiatry ([www.cornellpsychiatry.org/history](http://www.cornellpsychiatry.org/history)) or can be reached or linked directly from <http://catalog.SurpassSoftware.com/oskardiethelm>.

The catalog has already created a stir among historians of psychiatry in the United States and western Europe. In addition to providing access to our collection, it also serves as a major bibliographic resource in the history of psychiatry worldwide.

We have purchased a computer for the library's reading room that provides library users with access to the online catalog, Wood Library's catalog and databases, Cornell Ithaca's catalog and databases, the PEP archive of full-text psychoanalytic journals as well as the Standard Edition of the works of Sigmund Freud.

### *Library Exhibits*

Our first online exhibit, entitled *The Rise and Decline of Psychiatric Hydrotherapy*, premiered this year and can be viewed at the Institute for the History of Psychiatry website at [http://www.cornellpsychiatry.org/history/osk\\_die\\_lib/hydrotherapy/default.htm](http://www.cornellpsychiatry.org/history/osk_die_lib/hydrotherapy/default.htm).

### *Acquisitions*

Dr. Aaron Esman has donated a rare item to the library. The 1885 volume of *Wiener Medizinische Wochenschrift* includes Sigmund Freud's first published paper, "Beiträge zur Kasuistik der Hysterie," and commentary on the article by Freud's contemporaries. It is joined by 45 other secondary works dealing with the history of psychiatry acquired during the past year.

### *Archives and Manuscripts*

Processing of the archives of the American Psychoanalytic Association continued during the year and will be completed in

the coming year, which is the final year of the grant. The finding aid being produced by our contract archivist will be available in both a print and an electronic version available on our website.

### *Library Use*

This year marked the first time we provided a tour of the library and its treasures to medical school students through the Brain Interest Group. Thirty students signed up for the tour and it was such a success that we are planning to conduct similar tours on an annual basis.

Use of the library by scholars has dramatically increased this year. Among these is Carla Yanni, an art history professor at Rutgers, who acknowledged our assistance in her newly published book, *The Architecture of Madness: Insane Asylums in the United States*. Also, a portrait of Isador Sadger from our lantern slide collection graces the cover of *Isador Sadger: Sigmund Freud. Persönliche Erinnerungen*, edited by Andrea Huppke and Michael Schröter, published in 2006.

*Diane Richardson, M.L.I.S.*



**GOUT.**



**MESMERIZATION**

# MESMERIC MANIA AND CLAIRVOYANT SOMNABULISTS IN 19TH CENTURY AMERICA

## *Introduction*

From its earliest days, American interest in *animal magnetism* or *mesmerism*, as it was popularly called, was as much a social as a medical phenomenon. Although introduced as a medical innovation in the latter eighteenth century, animal magnetism passed quickly into the realm of popular entertainment and from there grew to become America's first popular pseudo-medical fad. Sharply criticized by practitioners of traditional medicine, mesmerists chose during the early nineteenth century to orient their message more and more toward the paying public and so began putting on public demonstrations of their 'art' that were often indistinguishable from 'performance.' It was a movement away from genuine alternative medicine and toward pseudo-medical entertainment and it eventually culminated in the widespread use of 'clairvoyant somnambulists'—individuals over whom the mesmerist's skill gave him unusual power and who could, purportedly, diagnose, prophecy and even cure disease when in an hypnotic state.

Not surprisingly, with the introduction of clairvoyant somnambulists, the work of mesmerists and magnetizers took on a more magical or supernatural tone. Under mesmeric direction, clairvoyant somnambulists were said to be able to identify objects while blindfolded, discern the contents of messages in sealed envelopes, describe places they had never visited, and perform many other feats that had no obvious connection to medicine or psychology. Indeed, in many cases, the mesmerist claimed to be able to communicate with his somnambulist *telepathically*—that is, without the need for speech—and thereby co-opted perhaps the most popular ploy in the magician's box of tricks. The somnambulists' most marketable skill, however, remained a medical one. In keeping with the therapeutic origins of animal magnetism, mesmerists insisted that clairvoyant somnambulists could see into



# **MESMERIC PHENOMENA.**



## **Mr. WEBSTER,**

**Will deliver his third Lecture on the mysterious science of**

**ANIMAL MAGNETISM,**  
this (Thursday) night, at the Court House.

Two subjects, "**FREDERICK**," and a young **LADY** will be **MAGNETIZED** and all the varied and beautiful phenomena of the **MAGNETIC SLEEP** produced.

To conclude the exercises of the evening, an experiment of great interest will be instituted, viz: the **LADY**, while in the *Mesmeric Sleep and blindfolded*, will play a hand at **CARDS** with a **GENTLEMAN**, nominated by the audience, while "*Frederrick*" will amuse himself and the audience by detecting the play of the **LADY**, and exposing the hand of the **GENTLEMAN**.

*✍. All experiments to come from the audience. ✍*

**Front seats reserved for the Ladies.**

**Doors open at 7 o'clock.**

**Tickets of admittance 50 cents; for a gentleman and two ladies, \$1.; children under 12 years of age, half price.**

**Charlottesville Nov. 2, 1843.**

the bodies of others and diagnose illness and disease, much as doctors would later use X-rays. This made the somnambulist into a diagnostic tool: a human instrument and extension of the mesmerist's own medical and psychological acumen. Moreover, it was in this capacity that clairvoyant somnambulists became wildly popular. As traveling practitioners of a pseudo-medical art that

was also entertainment, they drew huge audiences and induced thousands of early nineteenth century New Englanders to pay truly exorbitant sums for just a glimpse of their 'treatments'.

Of course, seen from the perspective of modern medicine, early American interest in clairvoyant somnambulism appears as either quaint, foolish or unbelievable. However, in the context of the early nineteenth century, popular interest in mesmerism and clairvoyant somnambulism is far less surprising. It was, after all, an age of great technological innovation—one for which Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (1818) remains a notable and defining book—and many were already primed to believe in the permeability of the barrier between man and spirit. Medicine was making great strides in the early 1800s and so lay audiences introduced to pseudo-medical ideas by America's quickly evolving culture of mobile entertainment, were disposed to believe many, if not all, of the extraordinary claims put forth. At the very least, they recognized a good show when they saw one (a fact which goes a long way to explaining the remarkable popularity of clairvoyant somnambulists in New England at this time).

Gender, too, played a role in its appeal. Clairvoyant somnambulists were overwhelmingly female and mesmerists were preponderantly male, and therefore it was also a movement charged with sexual tension and scintillation. Somnambulists were said to be under the total control of their magnetizers: unconscious, vulnerable and entirely biddable. Naturally, much was made of the unseemliness of this partnership, with newspapers warning husbands and fathers to protect their wives and daughters from the dangerous allure of animal magnetism. However, seen from the perspective of history, it is hard not to believe that the sexual tension inherent in the relationship between male mesmerists and female somnambulists did not add something to mesmerism's allure in the popular mind.

### *The Popularity of Animal Magnetism*

Based on the ideas of Franz Anton Mesmer (1734-1815),<sup>1</sup> animal magnetism began as a fringe medical treatment and popular fad of late eighteenth century French society. Intended as a form

of holistic cure, one in which the healer focused on bringing the entire body into magnetic balance, early mesmeric treatments sometimes called for the use of tools, such as iron rods or tubs, but more often required only touch, sight and the passing of hands over the bodies of their patients. As *The Illustrated Practical Mesmerist* (1899) describes it, “Whether the ailment arise from external injury, or the action of internal morbid forces, the treatment is similar, and consists in making passes...over the part affected.”<sup>2</sup>

The purpose of such ‘passes’ was to manipulate the polarity of the body’s ‘vital fluid,’ and remove ‘obstructions’ to physical and mental health. It was a mode of treatment that relied upon physical (or near physical) interaction between patient and practitioner, and which, unlike the operations of bed-rest or a drug, made the act of healing into a performance. Because of this animal magnetism became an object of great and lively interest for those who had the money to pursue good health and the leisure to enjoy good entertainment: the middle and upper classes.

Although Mesmer himself was from Vienna, his ideas received their first and most direct success in France among the elite of Paris. There, in an age already teeming with new discoveries, Mesmer’s magnetic fluid was quickly seized on by the public as yet another marvel of the age. Indeed, though many experts were skeptical of mesmerism and the existence of controllable magnetic fluids or forces in the body, public interest remained strong and would continue to simmer, despite revolution and war, well beyond the Napoleonic Era.<sup>3</sup> In other words, though first provoked by the publication of *Mémoire sur la découverte du magnétisme animal* in 1779, early fascination with mesmeric treatment became ‘dissipated by emigration and social upheaval,’ only to return with redoubled force in the early nineteenth century.<sup>4</sup> Driven by enthusiasm among the middle and upper classes, ‘during the Napoleonic and Restoration periods the mesmerists came together again, and the movement swelled and gained momentum,’ in France and elsewhere.<sup>5</sup>

This was especially true in the United State, where mesmeric mania hit in the 1830s with an alarming force, propelling large and well-paying audiences to go to local theaters and assembly halls to

**MESMERISM**  
AND  
**Neurology,**  
AT THE  
**Washington Battalion**  
**Armory,**  
**TO-NIGHT,**  
**Thursday, May 16, 1844,**  
BY  
**DOCTOR BOYNTON**  
AND  
**Mr. J. G. FORMAN.**

---

Lecture this Evening, by Doctor Boynton, on  
**SOMNAMBULISM, DREAMING AND**  
**DOUBLE CONSCIOUSNESS.**

---

AFTER THE LECTURE,  
**A YOUNG LADY**  
Will be magnetised by a Citizen. Ex-  
periments will then be introduced that  
will startle incredulity itself.

---

At the close of the Lecture  
**PHRENOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS**  
Will be made by Mr. Forman.

---

The Lecture and Experiments will commence  
at 8 o'clock.  
Doors Open at half past 7.—Tickets, 50 cents.

---

Printed at the Office of the Picayune, 72 Camp street.

watch the doings of mesmerists and somnambulists night after night. As *The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* opined in 1844 (giving voice to the frustrated bewilderment of the medical establishment):

In after times, the history of the mesmeric infatuation in

New England will be read with surprise, and produce a train of feeling much like that developed by reading an account of the witchcraft mania in the ancient town of Salem. It may appear almost incredible to those reading without the influence of the magic circle, that audiences of hundreds of people, up to one and two thousand, are congregated together, night after night, in the city of Boston, to be regaled with the subject of animal magnetism.<sup>6</sup>

The seeds of this mesmeric mania that so disturbed *The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* were planted in the first decade of the nineteenth century. For, it was then that a mesmerically-minded French nobleman named Armand-Marie-Jacques de Chastenet, Marques de Puységur, began incorporating hypnotism into his magnetic treatments.

One of Mesmer's most active and enthusiastic followers, Puységur was the founder of the *Société Harmonique des Amis Réunis*, a group dedicated to exploring the body's magnetic flows. And, it was during his involvement in the treatment of a young man named Victor Race that he observed that some patients undergoing mesmerism will fall into a trance from which they can be directed to do unusual or extraordinary things of which they have no memory later. Today we call this 'hypnosis' (the term was first coined by James Braid in 1842) and regard Puysegur's work as a pioneering form of 'hypnotherapy.' However, for Puysegur, 'hypnosis' was simply a type of mesmerism, and so he promoted and practiced it under that guise.

Most importantly for the present purpose, however, by grouping hypnosis with other mesmeric practices, Puységur set the stage for the phenomenon of the clairvoyant somnambulist. Whereas earlier mesmeric performers had limited themselves to manipulating the seated or recumbent patient, Puységur's brand of animal magnetism called for the active involvement of the patient in the process of treatment. Once hypnotized, the patient would be called upon to move, talk, act and, most importantly of all, *discern* illness in others, with the result that the hypnotized patient



**EXPERIMENTS IN**  
**ANIMAL MAGNETISM,**  
**Clairvoyance, &c.**  
**AT THE CAROLINA HALL,**  
**ON THIS EVENING, 23d INST.**

**“FREDERICK,”**  
**THE DISTINGUISHED CLAIR-**  
**VOYANT, will be Magnetized.**

**BY REQUEST,**

DR. WEBSTER will lecture again, at the Carolina Hall, this (WEDNESDAY) night.

Most of the evening will be devoted to experiments.

Propositions will be made for giving instructions to a *Private Class*.

Doors open at 6 1-2 o'clock. Experiments to commence at 7 o'clock. Admission, 50 cents. Children, half price. Tickets to be obtained at S. Weir's Book Store, and at the door.

CAMDEN, S. C., November 24, 1846.

The undersigned, having attended the PRIVATE LECTURES OF DR. J. P. WEBSTER, are fully satisfied that the Magnetic or Mesmeric Sleep is no deception, and that the wonderful phenomena exhibited by the patient, during that state, are *real*—the same experiments in *Clairvoyance, Sympathy, Phreno-Magnetism*, produced in his public exhibitions, having been tested by several Members of the *Private Class*, and the same results obtained.

W. E. Johnson, President Bank of Camden, S. C.  
 Chas. Taylor, Pastor of the Methodist E. Church.  
 B. W. Whilden, Pastor of the Baptist Church.  
 Alexander Johnson.  
 G. Reynolds, M. D.  
 W. B. Carlisle, Attorney at Law.  
 L. McCandless, Principal Male Academy.  
 J. H. Anderson.  
 Samuel J. Young.  
 Abraham DeLeon, M. D.  
 T. W. Pegues, Publisher Camden Journal.  
 Job Russell.  
 J. J. Dickson.  
 N. S. Punch.

A. L. Solomon.  
 E. A. Salmund, M. D.  
 James J. Villepigue.  
 S. K. Gifford.  
 James R. McKain.  
 Wm. B. Johnston, Editor Journal.  
 L. W. R. Blair.  
 Lemuel A. Austin.  
 R. W. Abbott.  
 John N. Garnewell, P. M.  
 Paul T. Villepigue.  
 Samuel E. Capers.  
 D. H. Shular.

COLUMBIA, December 23d, 1846.

soon became a performer and diagnostic tool. He became what came quickly to be called a 'clairvoyant somnambulist.'

*Charles Poyen*

Although many educated Americans were conversant with mesmeric ideas from their introduction in the 1770s, the widespread

popularity of public mesmeric spectacle and clairvoyant somnambulism in the New England was due almost entirely to the influence of one man: Charles Poyen Saint Saveur.<sup>7</sup> A disciple of Puységur, Charles Poyen arrived in New England in 1836, and immediately began an energetic campaign to promote the advantages of animal magnetism. By giving frequent lectures on and demonstrations of the mesmeric process, Poyen induced others to take up the craft.

The little that is known about the life of Charles Poyen comes primarily from his writings. He claimed that he had been a medical student in Paris and was there afflicted with an unspecified nervous disorder in 1832. After unsuccessfully seeking relief from physicians, Poyen was referred to a mesmerist who used a clairvoyant somnambulist named Madame Villetard to diagnose and treat his illness. His description of the event contains more than a note of marvel. "How much surprised was I," he writes, "when after communication had been established between us, I heard her giving a correct and minute description of the symptoms of my disease, as though she had experienced it herself, and, more than that, stating the seat and nature of it, mentioning accurately the articles of food and drink that agreed not with my stomach."<sup>8</sup>

Poyen became a quick convert to mesmerism.

Moreover, not long after, and with the clairvoyant's approval, Poyen set out for a visit with a family living in the French West Indies. There he found that many planters not only knew about but practiced animal magnetism on themselves and their slaves.<sup>9</sup> After more than a year in the West Indies, Poyen sailed from Guadeloupe to the United States, where he stayed with an uncle in Haverhill, Massachusetts, later settling in Lowell, Massachusetts, where he taught French and drawing. There he learned that unlike the West Indies, both animal magnetism and clairvoyant somnambulism were all but unknown to the general American population.

Determined to educate the public about the benefits of animal magnetism, in February, 1836, Poyen delivered a series of four lectures at Chauncey Hall in Boston, before a "small, but intelligent and respectable audience."<sup>10</sup> He printed announcements in Boston

**ANIMAL  
MAGNETISM !**  

---

**ST. CHARLES  
THEATRE**  

---

**THURSDAY & SATURDAY  
Nights.**

**MR. WEBSTER**  
Will Lecture and Experiment on  
**MESMERISM,**

At the St. Charles Theatre,  
On Thursday and Saturday nights, the 2d and  
4th of May, 1844.

☞ Those desirous of witnessing the  
most beautiful and startling mesmeric phe-  
nomena ever produced in this country,  
would do well to attend.

*All Experiments will be suggested by  
the Audience, and reported to them by an  
efficient Committee.*

☞ Doors open at 7 o'clock—Lecture to com-  
mence at 8.

☞ **TICKETS**—To the Parquette and 1st and  
2d Tier of Boxes, 50 cents. The Gallery will be  
closed.

Printed at the Office of the Picayune, 72 Camp street.



# ST. CHARLES THEATRE.

## ANIMAL MAGNETISM!

MR. WEBSTER

Will commence a course of lectures and experiments, this evening,

***Tuesday, April 30,***

AT THE ST. CHARLES THEATRE.

FREDERICK, the most distinguished Clairvoyant in the U. States, will be the subject for experiment.

A Committee will be appointed to report experiments, all of which come from the audience.

Doors open at 7 o'clock, Lecture to commence at 8 o'clock.

TICKETS 50 Cent.

# Theatre St. Charles.

## MAGNETISME ANIMAL!

MONS. WEBSTER

Commencera un cours de lectures et experiences au Theatre St. Charles, ce soir,

***Mardi, 30 Avril.***

Frederic, le Clairvoyant, le plus celebre des Etats Unis, sera le crisiaque, et un comite sera nomme pour fair un rapport des experiences.

Les portes seront ouvertes a 7 heures; la lecture commencera a 8 heures. BILLETS 50 Cents.

Printed at the office of the "Crescent City."

newspapers that he would provide free instruction in magnetism to all who were interested.

The response was encouraging, and soon Poyen found himself lecturing, demonstrating, and instructing Americans throughout northern New England in the practice of animal magnetism. It

was at this time that he was contacted by a physician in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and asked to consult on a case. The patient was Miss Cynthia A. Gleason, a textile mill worker who had been suffering from a chronic stomach complaint. Miss Gleason was very susceptible to hypnosis, and within days Poyen was using her as his clairvoyant somnambulist. In fact, four faculty members from Brown University, including its president Francis Wayland, attended a demonstration and became influential supporters because of his work with Cynthia Gleason. Indeed, for a time Providence, Rhode Island became the center of mesmeric activity in the United States.

Eventually, Cynthia Gleason accompanied Poyen back to Boston where they performed at a number of public demonstrations of mesmerism in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and Rhode Island. By this time several of Poyen's students were also lecturing and demonstrating animal magnetism in the area, so they were at the core of a rapidly growing mesmeric community.

Almost as abruptly as he had arrived, Poyen left the United States in the summer of 1840. Why he went is not exactly certain. He may have left merely to visit family or tend to affairs back home in France. However, circumstantial evidence, such as the following notice, suggests that he left to escape unpaid debts. It appeared in the Barre (Massachusetts) *Gazette* on 6 March 1840:

*Dr. Charles Poyen.* Can any body tell us what has become of this noted professor of animal magnetism? If any one seeing this article should come across the Doctor, we wish it might be suggested to him, that in some of Miss Gleason's fits of clairvoyance she should be sent this way to pay for a small bill which he owes us.<sup>11</sup>

It is unlikely that Poyen ever read this piece of satirical chiding. For he died in France as he was preparing to return to America. His obituary appeared in *The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* on 25 September 1844.

Cynthia Gleason, however, outlived her mentor and partner.

# ANIMAL MAGNETISM, Phreno-Magnetism, &c.

***This Evening, at the Court House.***

## TOOTH EXTRACTED THIS EVENING.

### Mr. Webster

Will experiment this evening, in all the various classes of the Electro-Magnetic or Sympathetic Sleep. Both SUBJECTS will again be MAGNETIZED and develop their astonishing powers in experiments of *Will, Clairvoyance, Sympathy, Phreno-Magnetism, &c. &c.*

To conclude the entertainments of the evening, the LADY, while in the MAGNETIC SLEEP, will have a TOOTH extracted by one of the *Physicians* of this City, without evincing the slightest emotion of pain. Come, then, *Skeptic* as well as believer, and witness this interesting experiment, developing one of the many *uses* of this mysterious science.

**Tickets of admission reduced to 25 Cents.**

Doors opened at 7 o'clock.  
Winchester, October 5, 1843.

☞ We recommend Mr. WEBSTER to the citizens of Winchester, as exhibiting in a more satisfactory manner, "Mesmeric Influence" than we have ever seen, and as it is a subject now attracting the attention of many intelligent persons of this country as well as Europe—those who feel an interest may have an opportunity of witnessing all that is known of its mysterious influence.

JOSEPH TOGNO, M. D.  
HUGH H. McGUIRE, M. D.  
A. S. TIDBALL,  
P. WILLIAMS, JR.  
BUSHROD TAYLOR

DANIEL CONRAD, M. D.  
A. S. BALDWIN, M. D.  
J. MARSHALL, JR.  
DAVID W. BARTON.

She remained in Boston where she established her own practice as a clairvoyant somnambulistic healer, amassing a small fortune for one of her sex and class. Indeed, Miss Gleason died in Smithfield, Rhode Island on 3 August 1847, leaving an estate of over \$1,000.<sup>12</sup>

#### *"Mesmeric Mania" and Itinerant Performers*

Although Poyen and Gleason were absolutely essential to the early establishment of mesmerism and clairvoyant somnambulism

in New England, the movement they spawned very quickly developed a life of its own. In fact, in his book *Progress of Animal Magnetism in New England*, published in Boston in 1837, Charles Poyen himself noted the enormous growth of interest in animal magnetism within a year and a half of his first lecture. "Eighteen months ago," he writes,

there was not a magnetizer in New England! And at the present day I am able, myself alone, to quote forty! Eighteen months ago, there was not a magnetic somnambulist in the country, and at the present moment there are perhaps upwards of two hundred. It was said lately, in the Providence Journal, that upwards of one hundred cases had been observed in Rhode Island alone.<sup>13</sup>

Because of his travels there, Rhode Island and Massachusetts became for a time major centers of mesmeric activity. However, other states, too, soon played host to mesmeric communities. New York City, particularly, was entranced by the subject. Both P. T. Barnum's American Museum and Peale's Museum on Broadway, vied for the custom of crowds at daily afternoon and evening demonstrations of mesmerism and clairvoyant somnambulism. Competition was so fierce that each museum actively lured popular magnetizers and somnambulists away from one another, offering higher pay and greater prestige.<sup>14</sup> Although they are now viewed more as freak shows than educational establishments, these museums were pivotal in the development of nineteenth-century popular American culture. Combining sensational entertainment and gaudy display with instruction and moral uplift, they drew a heterogeneous population that included immigrants and natives, the working and middle classes, men and women, city residents and rural visitors to be alternately educated and amused.

For their part, small town and rural Americans were reliant on traveling showmen to provide them with instruction and entertainment. Among these were many New Englanders, a number of them also phrenologists, who learned the "mysteries" of mesmerism from Poyen or one of his followers and determined



Price of Admission reduced to 25 Cents.

**POSITIVELY THE LAST NIGHT.**

**EXTRAORDINARY & COMBINED ATTRACTION!**

The amusing Experiment with Cards to be repeated.

**TWO SUBJECTS will be Magnetized!**

A citizen will be put in communication with the Patients

**Dr. WEBSTER**

WILL LECTURE AGAIN

**This (FRIDAY) Night, June 11th, 1847.**

**At the LYCEUM HALL,**

*And give the best Mesmeric Entertainment ever produced in this or any other city.*

By general desire the laughable and interesting Experiment of the

**GAME AT CARDS!**

Between a CITIZEN, selected from the audience and the two subjects will be repeated.

**A CITIZEN**

Will also be put in MESMERIC COMMUNICATION with a Patient and take with him some

**MENTAL JOURNEY, &c.**

This is designed to be the best Entertainment in MESMERISM ever given in this country.

**Most of the Evening will be devoted to Experiments.**

**PRICE of ADMISSION 25 CENTS.**

☞ Doors open at half past 7. Lecture to commence at 8 o'clock.

to make a career of demonstrating these skills to their fellow Americans.

An excellent example of just such an individual is Jonathan Palmer Webster, whose papers are held by the Oskar Diethelm Library. This collection comprises the correspondence, advertising broadsides, and ephemera accumulated in the course of Mr. Webster's time as an itinerant lecturer on animal magnetism. Mr. Webster's travels took him through the ante-bellum South and to New Orleans, where he gave demonstrations in animal magnetism and offered classes to the public for a fee.

Although we have very little biographical information on Mr. Webster, his first recorded appearance is as an itinerant instructor of penmanship in the Merrimack River Valley of Massachusetts and New Hampshire from 1837 to 1841. Charles Poyen and Cynthia Gleason demonstrated in this location on numerous occasions during those years. In 1842, J. Palmer Webster had relocated and was advertising for students at his Academy of Penmanship and Stylographic Card Drawing on King Street in Charleston, South Carolina. Webster's Academy then moved on to Norfolk, Virginia in November and December of 1842. During the same year he appeared as a professor of phrenology in Columbus, Georgia and Lynchburg, Virginia.

From 1843 to 1847, Webster abandoned his former endeavors to concentrate exclusively on lecturing, demonstrating and teaching animal magnetism. He charged \$10 in advance to attend a course of "three scientific lectures, in which the real basis and some of the effects produced at public exhibitions, will be divulged, explained, illustrated and proved." The course was entitled "Mesmerism Unveiled!!"

Webster charged a 50 cent admission fee to public demonstrations of animal magnetism. He was accompanied by a male clairvoyant somnambulist named "Frederick", whom he identified as "the most distinguished Clairvoyant in the U. States."

Of course, Webster was just one of a number of traveling mesmerists, and as the number of itinerant mesmerists grew, competition increased. Therefore, rather than advertising his show as a lecture on animal magnetism, demonstrating the process on

an accompanying clairvoyant and one or two volunteers from the audience, Webster used his showmanship to spice up his program. In 1847, his broadsides proclaimed “The best Mesmeric Entertainment ever produced in this or any other city!”

In 1849, along with thousands of other young men, Jonathan Palmer Webster heeded the call of adventure and headed out west in the California gold rush. He abandoned his career as a mesmerist and established himself as a physician. Writing from Sacramento to his brother in New Hampshire on June 15, 1850, he notes that he has just recovered from cholera and “may go to the mines, either to dig or to practice my profession.”

By the early years of the Civil War, mesmeric mania had run its course in the United States. In its place, surgeons turned to experimenting with anesthetics rather than depending on the unreliable benefits of hypnosis. Phineas Quimby’s “science of health” evolved to become Mary Baker Eddy’s Christian Science, and mesmeric clairvoyants were replaced by spiritualists, who in their turn alternately entertained and inspired the public with table-rapping, spirit-writing and séances.

*Diane Richardson, M.L.I.S.*  
*Siohahn A. Walker, M.A.*

#### *Footnotes*

<sup>1</sup> Mesmer argued in his *Mémoire sur la découverte du magnétisme animal* (1779) that health resulted from the free flow of a superfine magnetic fluid that permeated and surrounded all living bodies.

<sup>2</sup> William Davey *The Illustrated Practical Mesmerist* (London: J. Burns, 1889), p. 17.

<sup>3</sup> In fact, Mesmer’s ideas were formally condemned by a French Royal Commission set up by Louis XVI in 1784—a Commission which included such leading lights as Benjamin Franklin, Jean Sylvain Bailly, Joseph-Ignace Guillotin and Antoine Lavoisier.

<sup>4</sup> Robert Darnton *Mesmerism and the End of the Enlightenment in France* (New York: Schocken Press, 1970), p. 135.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 135-136

<sup>6</sup> “Lectures on Mesmerism,” *The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, vol. 29, no. 23 (January 10, 1844), p. 466.

<sup>7</sup> See Eric T. Carlson “Charles Poyen brings mesmerism to America,”

*Journal of the History of Medicine*, Vol. 15 (April 1960), pp. 121-132.

<sup>8</sup> Charles Poyen *Progress of Animal Magnetism in New England*. (Boston: Weeks, Jordan & Co., 1837), p. 40.

<sup>9</sup> Puységur had visited Haiti as a naval officer and founded an animal magnetism society there in 1784. No doubt mesmerism spread to the slave population, where it was merged with African-Haitian traditional occult practices.

<sup>10</sup> Poyen, 1837, p. 44.

<sup>11</sup> "Dr. Charles Poyen," *Barre Gazette*, vol. 6, no. 43 (March 6, 1840), p. 2.

<sup>12</sup> Sheila O'Brien Quinn "How Southern New England Became Magnetic North: The Acceptance of Animal Magnetism" *History of Psychology*, vol. 10, no. 3 (August 2007), pp. 231-248).

<sup>13</sup> Poyen, 1837, p. 37.

<sup>14</sup> Edward John Nygren "Rubens Peale's experiments with mesmerism," *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, vol. 114, no. 2 (April 13, 1970), pp. 100-108.



**DEMESMERIZING.**



## BOOK REVIEW

*American Psychiatry and Homosexuality: an Oral History.* Edited by Jack Drescher, MD and Joseph P. Merlino, MD. Haworth Press; 2007.

This volume contains 17 reminiscences and interviews with American psychiatrists who were in some way connected with the landmark 1973 decision by the American Psychiatric Association to remove homosexuality from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. As many of the contributors are aging, or have recently passed away, documenting their personal and professional experiences constitutes an important record. The volume also highlights how the debate over homosexuality mirrored a broader tension within psychiatry between psychoanalysis and the more empirically oriented nosologists. These accounts also help illuminate how science and social movements mutually influence one another.

As detailed in the editors' introductory remarks, the fledgling gay and lesbian civil rights movement of the early 1970's needed to exert significant pressure on the profession to goad it toward removing the diagnosis. Gay activists, beginning in 1970, began to protest the American Psychiatric Association's annual meetings. In 1971 the APA, in response to these protests, initiated panels at the 1971 and 1972 meetings addressing the stigma caused by the diagnosis. At the 1972 meetings, John Fryer M.D., one of the contributors to this volume, appeared in a Halloween mask and fright wig as Dr. H. Anonymous to discuss the corrosive effects that pathologizing homosexuality had on his career. Psychoanalysis, in particular its more orthodox wing, does not come off well in many of these accounts. Drawing upon the Kraepelian roots of the profession, as well as more empiric sexology research, the vanguard of the profession finally prevailed against the more doctrinaire analysts who had—wittingly or not—appended *The Standard Edition to Leviticus*.

Most of the book's contributors entered the field in the late fifties and early sixties. The gay among them also entered the

consulting rooms of their mentors in search of a cure. Unfortunately, instead of succor they frequently received the same dose of shame Benedict XII was handing out 500 years ago. This collection, then, serves as an important reminder to young psychiatrists and scientists. As Michael Ghiselin wrote 40 years ago, “it is sobering to observe that democratic societies are every bit as prone to the kind of dogmatism that caused the Soviet Union to reject Mendelian inheritance” early in the 20th century.<sup>1</sup> Superstition, it would seem, has many disguises.

Indeed, cultural and medical views of difference or abnormality have always been stubbornly intertwined. As this book highlights, the prestige of medicine and the legal and social consequences of its diagnoses, made the 1973 decision a critical one for gay civil rights. This topic is especially timely in light of recent efforts by fundamentalist Christians to provide re-orientation therapy for reluctant homosexuals. Here *faux* psychological treatment is mixed with faith-healing—charlatanism blended with ritual purification. Fortunately, gay groups can now turn to neuroscience and genetics to battle their long-standing clerical foes.

*Robert G. Goldstein, M.D.*

### ***Footnotes***

<sup>1</sup> *The Triumph of the Darwinian Method*. Michael T. Ghiselin, Dover Publications; 1969.

## ERIC T. CARLSON MEMORIAL GRAND ROUNDS

*The Thirteenth Annual Eric T. Carlson Lecture:  
Prof. Hannah Decker on  
“A Revolution in American Psychiatry:  
The Neo-Kraepelinians and the Development of DSM-III”*

April 18, 2007 saw the return of something of a prodigal daughter to the Payne Whitney Clinic’s History of Psychiatry Section, in the form of Professor Hannah S. Decker, who gave the thirteenth annual Eric T. Carlson Lecture. Dr. Decker has been an active and prolific professor in the department of history at the University of Houston since 1974, where her specialties include the history of psychoanalysis, the history of German psychiatry and psychology, modern Germany, and European intellectual history. There she has won numerous awards, including, in 1991, a University Research Excellence Award. She has also been the recipient of grants from the National Endowment of the Humanities and the National Science Foundation, and has served as a consultant to World Book Encyclopedia, PBS, the Library of Congress, the NEH, NIH, NSF, and the Guggenheim Foundation. Dr. Decker completed her PhD in history at Columbia University, and served for several years as a research fellow in our own History of Psychiatry section, where she was a mentee of Eric “Ted” Carlson, as well as a Clinical Instructor at Cornell University Medical College.

Dr. Decker’s previous scholarship has garnered great praise for its important contributions to the history of psychiatry. Her first book, *Freud in Germany: Revolution and Reaction in Science, 1893—1907* (1977), not only was a complex, multi-layered study of the context of Freud’s work that strongly challenged existing theories about it, but also a pioneering example of a new method of doing Freud history. Her second book, 1991’s *Freud, Dora and Vienna 1900*, closely studied the political, cultural and medical environment in which Freud undertook his treatment of Ida Bauer, and Dr. Decker has also written important articles on topics such as the

history of dementia praecox and the study of dissociative phenomena.

In her Eric T. Carlson lecture, Dr. Decker permitted us a sneak preview of her latest area of research: the story of how DSM-III came to be, and why one might make a claim that this event was a “revolution in American Psychiatry.” Dr. Decker opened her lecture with a brief overview of the revolution in *German* psychiatry that Emil Kraepelin inadvertently started with the 1883 compendium of psychiatry that he put together hastily on his spring vacation. Kraepelin’s nosology of the psychotic disorders, as well as his emphasis (at least in theory) on categorizations that were based exclusively on observed data, were to be profoundly influential on successive generations of German psychiatrists. Dr. Decker then went on to discuss how, almost a century later, a group of psychiatrists in the United States (marshalled by Dr. Robert Spitzer) undertook to comprehensively revise and expand DSM-II into DSM-III along what they considered more empirically rigorous lines, with disease categories based on explicit research criteria. In doing so, they deliberately sought to challenge the psychoanalytically informed diagnostic paradigms of the day, and for their emphasis on phenomenology earned themselves the label “neo-Kraepelinians.” In her characteristically nuanced and comprehensive manner, Dr. Decker examined the myriad strands that fed into this movement, from major societal trends (the antipsychiatry movement and deinstitutionalization) to individual personalities (Dr. Spitzer was by temperament an innovator, with a penchant for breaking new ground).

In her afternoon session at the Richardson seminar, Dr. Decker further explored “the nuts and bolts” of this “paradigm shift” in American psychiatry, for example revealing the frankly iconoclastic impulses that underlay some of the researchers’ attacks on the psychoanalytic establishment. She noted that in the men’s bathroom of the psychiatry department at Washington University, one of the main centers of neo-Kraepelinian foment, a portrait of Freud was hung over a urinal. (Which led Dr. Rosemary Stevens, during the spirited Q & A session at the seminar, to inquire whose portrait hung in the Ladies’ Room.) Dr. Spitzer was himself in the audience for the morning lecture’s Q & A, and ventured mildly

to comment that he did not, in fact, for these many years consider himself a neo-Kraepelinian: "Because they were down on therapy, and I am not."

In her introductory remarks, Dr. Decker recollected that Ted Carlson had been a mentor to her "in so many ways," and commented that Payne Whitney had much improved its physical environment since she was a fellow here. At that time, she said, "We just had to grab whatever space we could, including the old rooms where they still had tubs for treating the agitated patients."

*Mallay Occhiogrosso, M.D.*



**DUMBNESS.**



# RICHARDSON HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRY SEMINAR



## *SEMINAR PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT*

The Richardson Seminar was graced again this year with its usual wide variety of presentations by speakers from far and near. From the ranks of beloved recidivists we were pleased to welcome back Rev. Curtis Hart, John Kerr Ph.D, Veronika Fuechtner Ph.D, Peter Rudnytsky Ph.D, Eric Engstrom Ph.D (returning to us from Germany), John Paul Russo Ph.D, and after a long absence, Hannah Decker Ph.D as our annual Carlson Lecturer. Newcomers to the seminar hailed from locales as exotic as Edinburgh, Haifa, and Ohio (not to mention Massachusetts and Rhode Island), and as close as Rockefeller and Fordham. The second annual Esman Lectureship was presented by the distinguished art historian Donald Kuspit Ph.D.

While all our speakers deserve our gratitude, the seminar would not have the reputation it now enjoys among scholars in the field without the fidelity and perspicacity of its core members. Their steady attendance and thoughtful engagement is largely responsible for making our seminar a sought-after venue for the presentation of works-in-progress. So, while our noteworthy speakers add luster, it is our loyal cadre of seminar members to whom I owe most thanks for making the task of speaker recruitment a pleasant and relatively easy one.

*Nathan Kravis, M.D.*

SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS, 2006-2007

**September 6**

Gavin Miller, Ph.D, University of Edinburgh

“Scottish Psychoanalytic Psychiatry: A History of Communion?”

**September 20**

Benjamin Beit-Hallahmi, Ph.D, University of Haifa

“‘A Child is Being Sacrificed’: A Timeless Fantasy and its Contemporary Incarnation in Psychotherapy”

**October 4**

Mary Bergstein, Ph.D, Rhode Island School of Design

“Freud’s *Moses of Michelangelo*: Vasari, Photography, and Art Historical Practice”

**October 18**

Emmanuel K. Akyeampong, Ph.D, Harvard University

“Alcoholism and Narcotics Use: Changing Perspectives on Mental Illness in Africa”

**November 1**

Jules Hirsch M.D., Rockefeller University

“Reflections on the Pathogenesis of Human Obesity”

**November 15**

Rev. Curtis Hart, Weill Medical College

“J. Robert Oppenheimer: A Faith Development Portrait”

**December 6**

Veronika Fuechtner, Ph.D, Dartmouth College

“Nordic Souls and a Jewish Science: Arnold Zweig and Berlin Psychoanalysis in Palestine.”

**January 3**

Donald Kuspit, Ph.D, SUNY, Stony Brook

*Aaron Esman Lecture*

“Discrepancies Between Art Historical and Psychoanalytic Interpretations of Avant-Garde Painting: Fry and Greenberg contra Balint and Fairbairn”

**February 7**

Darcy Buerkle, Ph.D, Smith College

“Spectral Anxiety or Towards the Reconstruction of Affect in Pre-1933 Germany”

**February 21**

John Kerr, Independent Scholar

“Unpublished Sullivan: A Preliminary Reconnaissance”

**March 7**

Peter Rudnytsky, Ph.D, University of Florida

“True Confessions in *Operation Shylock*”

**March 21**

Vera Camden, Ph.D, Kent State

“Trauma and Toleration in John Bunyan and John Milton”

**April 4**

Eric Engstrom, Ph.D, Institut für Geschichte der Medizin

“Demented Selves: Historical Perspectives on Alzheimer’s Disease”

**April 18**

Hannah Decker, Ph.D, University of Houston

*Eric T. Carlson Memorial Lecture: Grand Rounds*

“A Revolution in American Psychiatry: The Development of DSM-III”

*Richardson Seminar*

“The Development of a New Paradigm: The Neo-Kraepelinian Role”

**May 2**

Anne Golomb Hoffman, PhD, Fordham University

“The Body as Archive”

**May 16**

John Paul Russo, PhD, University of Miami

“The Disappearance of the Self in Contemporary Autobiography”



## WORKING GROUPS IN THE HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRY

### WORKING GROUP ON PSYCHOANALYSIS AND THE ARTS

The Working Group on Psychoanalysis and the Arts expanded its membership over the course of this year. Meetings have focussed on works of literature—a discussion of Conrad’s *Under Western Eyes* led by Dr. Arnold Cooper, of Tolstoy’s *The Death of Ivan Ilyich* and Philip Roth’s *Everyman*, led by Dr. Barbara Stimmel. Returning to Russian authors, Dr. Aaron Esman led a discussion of Dostoevsky’s *Notes from Underground*, and Dr. Ellie Gelman of Tolstoy’s first published work, the autobiographical story “Childhood.” In an entirely different vein, Dr. Samantha Boardman led a discussion of Edith Wharton’s *The House of Mirth*, and at the group’s final meeting Dr. Hilary Beattie discussed her work in progress on the friendship of Henry James and Robert Louis Stevenson.

*Katherine Dalsimer, Ph.D.*

### WORKING GROUP ON HISTORY OF PSYCHOANALYSIS

The group began the year with a discussion of Hannah Arendt’s differentiation of thinking and knowing. In “Thinking and moral considerations” (1971) from her book *Responsibility and Judgment*, this distinction hinges on her use of the word *aporetic*, which means constantly raising objections or doubts, literally ‘without a path.’ Arendt implies that thinking is fragile and precarious because we constantly lapse into a complacent knowingness. Analysts, too, tend to mistrust knowingness. So despite her antipathy toward psychoanalysis, the group discerned in Arendt’s writing views congenial to an analytic attitude toward uncertainty and knowingness.

Depending on one's perspective, this early focus on *aporia* either helpfully framed or bedeviled our colloquy for the entire year. Our reading of excerpts from Karl Jaspers' *General Psychopathology* (1923) plunged us back into a familiar conversation about the distinction between 'meaning' and 'cause', the role of causal explanation in the *psi* disciplines, and the extent to which all psychology tries both to establish causation and to find idiosyncratic meanings. Jaspers believed Freud mistook meaningful connections for causal links. We found a similar argument in Peter Wolff's paper on "The irrelevance of infant observations for psychoanalysis" (1996). Wolff sees the widely held assumption that there are causal connections between childhood and adulthood as a false, pseudo-scientific assertion of continuity.

In criticizing Freud, Jaspers wrote that, "Theories usually claim a complete domination." Many group members agreed with this observation and sought to demonstrate its pertinence to the writings of other authors we read, among them Hans Loewald's 1981 lecture on sublimation and the late Philip Rieff's *My Life Among the Deathworks: Illustrations of the Aesthetics of Authority* (2006), the first volume of a mostly posthumous trilogy called *Sacred Order/Social Order*.

The group then argued about what some alleged to be the scientific aspects of Bion's work and debated the reasons for its current popularity. Some saw Bion's ideas as imaginative and clinically useful (*viz.* his concept of maternal reverie), while others deplored what they decried to be the opaque and abstruse aspects of his theorizing (*viz.* his concept of "the grid"). In an effort to further delineate different attitudes toward theory and knowingness, the group read excerpts from Roy Schafer's paper on "Narration in the psychoanalytic dialogue" (1980), Clifford Geertz's *Local Knowledge* (1983), and Paul Ricoeur's *Freud and Philosophy* (1970). The year ended in contemplation of issues raised by our reading of excerpts from John Cottingham's *Philosophy and the Good Life* (1998), among them the question: Does psychoanalysis have embedded ethical injunctions? Some felt that to speak truly, e.g. about a desire, involves an ideal of truth-seeking, but not an ethical norm of conduct; others maintained that psychoanalysis inevitably purveys an ethic of curiosity and an interest in truth.

In sum, it seems safe to say that the group's inquiries and discussions over the course of the year would pass muster as sufficiently *aporetic* in Arendt's stipulation.

*Nathan Kravis, M.D.*



**MESMERIZING A RECUMBENT**

## WORKING GROUP ON THE HISTORY OF NEUROSCIENCE

The Working Group on the History of Neuroscience, chaired by Dr. David Silbersweig, Dr. Francis Lee, and Dr. George Makari continued into its third year in order to bring together neuroscience researchers at Cornell to engage in historical readings that would stimulate discussions on past and current issues in neuroscience. The group consists of research psychiatrists, psychologists, and neurologists. The group read works from Walter B. Cannon ("The James-Lange theory of emotions: a critical examination and an alternative theory," 1927), and James Papez, ("A Proposed Mechanism of Emotion," 1937). As the group develops, additional models of central nervous system function will be explored, with the hope of making relevant connections to the previous readings, as well as current models in neuroscience.

*Francis Lee, M.D.*



DEAFNESS.

## RESEARCH FACULTY & ALUMNI

### *STAFF & AFFILIATED FACULTY*

George J. Makari, M.D.	Director
Nathan M. Kravis,	Associate Director
Diane Richardson, M.L.I.S.	Spec. Collections Librarian
Siovahn A. Walker	Administrative Assistant

Anna M. Antonovsky, Ph.D.	
Michael Beldoch, Ph.D.	
Samantha Boardman, M.D.	
Daria Colombo, M.D.	
Norman Dain, Ph.D.	(Rutgers University)
Katherine Dalsimer, Ph.D.	
Aaron H. Esman, M.D.	
Joseph J. Fins, M.D., F.A.C.P.	
Lawrence Friedman, M.D.	
William A. Frosch, M.D.	
Robert Goldstein, M.D.	
Gerald N. Grob, Ph.D.	(Rutgers University)
L. C. Groopman, M.D., Ph.D.	
Leon D. Hankoff, M.D.	
Barbara Fass Leavy, Ph.D.	(Queens College, CUNY)
Robert Michels, M.D.	
Doris B. Nagel, M.D.	
Mallay Occhiogrosso, M.D.	
Louis A. Sass, Ph.D.	(Rutgers University)
Theodore Shapiro, M.D.	
Paul E. Stepansky, Ph.D.	
Rosemary A. Stevens, Ph.D., M.P.H.	
Craig Tomlinson, M.D.	(Columbia University)

All have appointments at or are employed by Weill Medical College of Cornell University. If a member's primary academic position is elsewhere, it is given in parentheses.

## *FACULTY NEWS*

**Anna M. Antonovsky, Ph.D.** continues as training analyst for the Institute for Psychoanalytic Training and Research and pursues her interest in intuitive formulations about human nature, with particular focus on the ability and inclination for thinking and understanding. She is currently noting resonances regarding these issues between writers as diverse in their origins as Hannah Arendt, Wilfred Bion, and Jean Laplanche.

**Michael Beldoch, Ph.D.** continues as a Clinical Professor at Weill Medical College of Cornell University and is an active member of the Working Group on the History of Psychoanalysis.

**Samantha Boardman, M.D.** continues to be an active participant in the Institute's seminars and working groups. This past year, she presented on *The House of Mirth* at the Working Group on Psychoanalysis and the Arts, contributed an article to *History of Psychiatry* and in collaboration with Dr. George Makari published an article on the history of Blackwell's Island in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*.

**Daria Colombo, M.D.** will be graduating from The New York Psychoanalytic Institute this winter. She continues to edit *Philoctetes*, the journal of The Philoctetes Center, and is finishing her term as an editorial associate for *The Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*. She recently published a review of Leo Rangell's "My Life in Theory" in *The Psychoanalytic Quarterly* and her panel report on a 2007 APSAA Panel, "What Use is Consciousness? A Clinical Neuroscience Roundtable," has been accepted by *JAPA* for publication. She is currently working on another book review for the *Quarterly*, and on a contribution to the forthcoming *Concise Encyclopedia of Psychoanalysis*.

**Norman Dain, Ph.D.** continues to donate large amounts of rare and valuable historical material to the Oskar Diethelm Library.

**Katherine Dalsimer, Ph.D.** again taught an elective called “Ear Training” to PGY III’s and IV’s, a seminar on poetry. She continues to supervise PGY III’s and IV’s at WCMC on long-term psychotherapy, and also to supervise post-doctoral fellows on intake evaluations at the Columbia University Mental Health Service. Within the Institute for the History of Psychiatry, she coordinates the Working Group on Psychoanalysis and the Arts. In June she gave Grand Rounds at Coney Island Hospital, where she was invited to give a talk she had given last year at Grands Rounds, WCMC entitled, “Virginia Woolf: ‘Thinking Back through our Mothers’”. She contributed a brief article, “Virginia Woolf: On Being Ill,” about Woolf’s writings on her own experience of bipolar disorder, to *Approaching the Psychiatric Patient*, ed. John W. Barnhill, APA Press, in press.

**Aaron H. Esman, M.D.** presented a Faculty Council Grand Rounds on March 7, 2007 (“Madness and Art: The Artist as Mental Patient”). He is now engaged in a critical review of the concept of *sublimation*. He donated to the ODHL a copy of the 1896 *Wiener Medizinische Wochenschrift*, which contains the original publication of Freud’s early paper on male hysteria.

**Joseph J. Fins, M.D., F.A.C.P.** is Chief of the Division of Medical Ethics in the Departments of Public Health and Medicine at Weill Medical College of Cornell University where he serves a Professor of Medicine and Professor of Medicine in Psychiatry. Among other honors, Dr. Fins recently received an Award for Teaching Excellence from Weill Medical College, was elected Governor to the American College of Physicians, and lectured at the Center for Neurological Restoration at the Cleveland Clinic. He is a member of the New York State Task Force on Life and Law as well as a member of the editorial board of *BioMed Central Medical Ethics*. His current scholarly interests include ethical issues at the end-of-life and palliative care, research ethics in neurology and psychiatry, medical education and methods of ethics case consultation.



**Lawrence Friedman, M.D.** is on the Faculty of the N.Y.U. Psychoanalytic Institute, is an Advisor on its Curriculum Committee, and a member of its Curriculum Revision Committee. He is on the Board of Directors of the Psychoanalytic Association of New York. He teaches a yearly session on hermeneutics at the Columbia Psychoanalytic Institute. In the American Psychoanalytic Association, he serves on the Program Committee, the Project for Innovation in Psychoanalytic Education, and a subcommittee on Psychoanalytic Teaching. He continues as Associate Editor of the *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, and is a member of the Editorial Board of *Psychoanalytic Inquiry* and *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, for which he serves also on the Board of Directors. He is the North American coordinator for the Education Section of the *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*. He received the 2006 Sigmund Freud Award from the American Society of Psychoanalytic Physicians, where he presented a paper entitled, "Learning Psychotherapy Without Reading." He presented a paper entitled, "A Renaissance for Freud's Papers on Technique," to the Psychoanalytic Society of New England East. He chaired a Panel on How Much Can Analysis be Discovery, Not Suggestion?" at the Mid-Winter Meeting of the American Psychoanalytic Association.

**William A. Frosch, M.D.**, now Professor Emeritus, remains an active teacher of medical students during their third year clinical rotation on the in-patient service, and continues to supervise residents, as well as provide administrative supervision for Chief Residents.

**Robert Goldstein, M.D.** continues as a member of the voluntary faculty at Weill/Cornell, as a participant in the History of Neurosciences Working Group and as a valued contributor to the Annual Report Committee of the Institute for the History of Psychiatry. Currently, he is writing a paper on Francis Galton and the 19th Century origins of behavioral genetics.

**Gerald N. Grob, Ph.D.**, Henry E. Sigerist Professor of the History of Medicine, Emeritus at Rutgers, accepted a lifetime achievement award from the American Association for the History of Medicine. Currently working on a book dealing with diagnosis and therapy in 20th century American medicine, Dr. Grob lectured at Pennsylvania Hospital, Rice University and Rutgers University and published book reviews in the *Journal of American History*, *American Historical Review* and *Psychiatric Services*.

**Leonard C. Groopman, M.D., Ph.D.** is a Faculty Associate in the Division of Medical Ethics at Weill Medical College of Cornell University and in this past year received an Excellence in Teaching Award from Weill Cornell Medical College for his teaching of ethics. Dr. Groopman also co-authored an article for the *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics*.

**Leon D. Hankoff, M.D.** continues as a voluntary faculty member at Weill Medical College of Cornell University. He is currently working on a book called *The Founders of Judaism and Christianity*.

**Nathan M. Kravis, M.D.**, Associate Director of the History Institute, teaches and supervises Payne Whitney residents and psychoanalytic candidates at Columbia University where he is a Training and Supervising Analyst. He serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association* and the *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, and is an editorial reader for the *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*.

**Barbara Fass Leavy, Ph.D.** continues to write for the entertainment magazine *Cabaret Scenes*. She is still revising her completed book on crime fiction and the Electra complex in order to meet the new requirements of academic presses that scholarly writing, like clothing, be trendy. Meanwhile, she has begun a collection of essays, also on crime fiction, entitled *Crime Fiction and Culture*.

**George J. Makari, M.D.** is Director of the Institute for the History of Psychiatry, Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Cornell, and continues as Visiting Associate Professor at Rockefeller University. He serves on numerous editorial boards including: *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, *Academic Psychiatry*, *History of Psychiatry*, *Psychiatrie*, *Sciences Humaines*, *Neurosciences*, *American Imago*, and *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*. He also serves as co-editor of the Cornell Studies in the History of Psychiatry book series. Dr. Makari teaches aspects of the history of psychoanalysis and psychiatry to Cornell's psychiatry residents and Columbia's psychoanalytic candidates as well as supervises electives in the history of psychiatry with Cornell medical students. During the past academic year, he was elected Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and gave presentations on the history of psychoanalysis at Emory University, the University Forum of the American Psychoanalytic Association, and University College, London. His book on the history of psychoanalysis, *A Revolution in Mind*, is currently in press at HarperCollins.

**Robert Michels, M.D.** delivered the Gary N. Spero Memorial Lecture at Payne Whitney Manhattan, gave Grand Rounds at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, spoke at the Western New England Psychoanalytic Institute, and chaired the plenary roundtable at the Freud 150th Anniversary Conference in London. Dr. Michels interviewed the distinguished senior psychoanalyst Charles Brenner for an evening with the Association for Psychoanalytic Medicine in New York, addressed the faculty of the Jewish Theological Seminary, spoke on a panel at the annual meeting of the American Psychoanalytic Association and engaged in a debate on evidence-based medicine at the annual meeting of the American College of Psychiatrists. Dr. Michels also appeared on the CUNY / PBS television program, "The Open Mind" and is Joint Editor-in-Chief of *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, Deputy Editor of *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, and active on the editorial boards of *Clinical Neuroscience Research*, *Psychiatry* and *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*.

**Doris B. Nagel, M.D.** continues her research on the diagnosis and treatment of schizophrenia in the first half of the 20th century in the United States, and is an active member of the Institute's Annual Report Committee.

**Mallay Occhiogrosso, M.D.** graduated from the residency program of the Payne Whitney Clinic in June of this year. She is currently an attending psychiatrist at the Payne Whitney Clinic and an instructor at Weill Cornell Medical College, where she recently taught courses in patient interviewing. In spring 2007, she gave a Grand Rounds at Payne Whitney's Westchester division on her senior resident project, "Gourmandizing, Gluttony, and Oral Fixations: Perspectives on Overeating in The American Journal of Psychiatry, 1844 to the Present," which will be published as a chapter in *Food, Eating, and Culture: A Cross-Disciplinary Feast*, edited by Lawrence Rubin (McFarlane Press, North Carolina, forthcoming).

**Louis A. Sass, Ph.D.** published a number of articles in the past year and continued to lecture widely, giving the Presidential Address to the American Psychological Association, as well as a number of talks at the University of Colombia in Bogota. He was an invited speaker at the University of Oviedo's Department of Psychiatry and addressed members of the Institute of French Studies at New York University. Dr. Sass also published articles in *Contemporary Anthropology* and several anthologies.

**Theodore Shapiro, M.D.**, Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry at Weill Cornell, is a member of the Working Group on the History of Psychoanalysis. Still Director of the Infant Psychiatry Program of the Sackler Institute, Dr. Shapiro participated in the Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Annual Meeting, was a discussant of the Eleanor Galenson Lecture (NYPSA Institute) and published articles in *JAPA* and several anthologies.

**Paul E. Stepansky, Ph.D.** continues to explore topics in the history of medicine and surgery in the 19th and early 20th centuries

and has begun work on a history of psychodynamic and psychoanalytic publishing since World War II. Dr. Stepansky was a recent speaker at the Richardson History of Psychiatry Seminar.

**Craig Tomlinson, M.D.** continues to teach, work and supervise in the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University, as well as at the Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research.

### *ALUMNI NEWS*

**Daniel Burston, Ph.D.**, fellow (1986-1989), is now Chair of the Psychology Department of Duquesne University and author of the recently published *Psychotherapy as a Human Science*, with Roger Frie.

**Hannah S. Decker, Ph.D.**, fellow (1967-1970), was the recipient of the Eric T. Carlson Award for “extraordinary contributions to the history of psychiatry and psychoanalysis.” She lectured at Grand Rounds for Cornell Weill Medical College on “A Revolution in American Psychiatry: The Making of DSM-III” and at the Richardson Seminar on “The Development of a New Paradigm: The Neo-Kraepelinians.” She also published a book review of *Freud's Free Clinics: Psychoanalysis and Social Justice, 1918-1938* in the *Journal of Modern History* and continues to work on her book on the making of DSM-III.

**John Efron, Ph.D.**, fellow (1988-1989), is the Koret Chair in Jewish History at the University of California-Berkeley.

**Eric Engstrom, Ph.D.**, fellow (2000-2001), continues to work at the Humboldt University (Institute for the History of Medicine) in Berlin and at the Max-Planck-Institute for Psychiatry in Munich. In this academic year he published the sixth volume of a multi-volume edition of the works of the German psychiatrist Emil Kraepelin and completed editing a special issue of *History of Psychiatry* on “Making Kraepelin History: A Great Instauration?”

He published several smaller and two major articles: 1) "Magnetic Trials in Berlin, 1789-1835: On the Disembodiment of Magnetic Credibility," *Medizinhistorisches Journal* 41.3 (2006): 225-269; 2) "Beyond Dogma and Discipline: New Directions in the History of Psychiatry," *Current Opinion in Psychiatry* 19 (2006): 595-599. He also presented several conference papers. At a conference on "Criminality and Madness in Germany, 1900-1950" at the Koebner Center for German History in Jerusalem he spoke on "Forensic Psychiatry in Imperial Germany". At a conference on "Untangling Selfhood: The Experience of Dementia and Other Cognitive Disorders" at Penn State University he delivered a paper on "Researching Dementia in Imperial Germany: Alois Alzheimer and the Economics of Psychiatric Practice." At a plenary symposium at the annual Congress of the German Society for Psychiatry, Psychotherapy and Neurology (DGPPN) in Berlin he spoke on "The New Instaurative Discourse in Psychiatry." On the occasion of the Berlin Jewish Hospital's 250th anniversary he presented a paper on the "Affective Disorders in Kraepelin's Nosology." And at the Fall Symposium of the Berlin Society for Psychiatry and Neurology he spoke on "The History of Psychiatric Detention." At the Berlin institute he taught graduate seminars on "Thing Knowledge" and Michel Foucault's "The Order of Things". Together with other colleagues at the institute, he is currently building a research unit in the history of psychiatry. He also served as a consultant to the Senate Commission on the History of University of Jena in the 20th century.

**Sander L. Gilman, Ph.D.**, a cultural and literary historian, is the author or editor of over seventy books. Dr. Gilman serves as Distinguished Professor of the Liberal Arts and Sciences at Emory University and was recently made Director for the Program in Psychoanalysis at Emory University as well as Director, Health Sciences Humanities Initiative, also at Emory University. During this year he lectured widely, at the University of Toronto, Indiana University, University of London, Hebrew University (Jerusalem), University of Kansas School of Medicine, 4th Annual Meeting of the U.K. Association for Medical Humanities, London, among

many others. Dr. Gilman published articles in a number of journals and anthologies, including *History of Psychiatry*, *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, *Patterns of Prejudice*, and *JAPA*. He is the author of *Multiculturalism and the Jews*, published by Routledge in 2006.

**Kathleen W. Jones, Ph.D.**, fellow (1982-1985), continues as Associate professor of history at Virginia Tech. During the school year 2007-2008, she will be a research fellow at the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina where she will be completing the book-length manuscript of her history of American youth suicide.

**Stephen Kern, Ph.D.**, fellow (1966-1970), has taught in the Department of History at Ohio State University since 2002 and was appointed a Humanities Distinguished Professor at Ohio State in 2004. His area of specialization is modern European cultural and intellectual history, with a particular interest in childhood, psychoanalysis, modernism, phenomenology, and the histories of philosophy, literature, art, and narrative.



This Plate indicates how the Gum *ONLY* may be Mesmerized, and Teeth extracted without pain, while the Patient remains in his ordinary waking condition.



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